

REMARKS

In the final Office Action dated April 14, 2008 the Examiner rejects claims 2 through 4, 7, 9, 11, 20, 21 and 24 as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0114484 to Wilson, et al. ("Wilson") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0016786 to Pitkow, et al. ("Pitkow") in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,028,027 to Zha, et al. ("Zha"). Claims 5 and 6 are rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wilson, Pitkow and Zha in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,941,321 to Schuetze ("Schuetze"). Claims 10, 14 and 15 stand rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wilson, Zha, Schuetze, and Pitkow. Claims 12 and 19 stand rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wilson, Zha and Pitkow in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,526,426 to Lakritz ("Lakritz"). Claims 17 and 18 stand rejected as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wilson, Zha and Pitkow in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,285,999 to Page ("Page"). Finally, the Examiner asserts that claim 8 has similar limitations as to claims 2 through 7, 9 through 14, 14 through 15, 18 through 21 and 24 and is therefore rejected under the same rationale.

Claims 2 though 12, 14, 15, 17 through 21, and 24 are currently pending in the present application, with claim 24 being an independent claim. Applicants hereby amend independent claim 24 and dependent claim 8 in the present Response, which is being submitted with a Request for Continued Examination. No new matter has been added and the amendment is supported by the specification as originally filed.

An Examiner Interview was held on May 6, 2008, upon which proposed amendments to independent claim 24 was discussed in response to Examiner's assertion regarding certain informalities as previously set forth. By way of the present amendment,

the informalities have been addressed and modified in accordance with the discussion held during the Interview and agreed upon by the Examiner. In addition, as stated by the Examiner during the Interview and as set forth in the Interview Summary, such amendments clarify the invention and distinguish the present invention over the prior art of record.

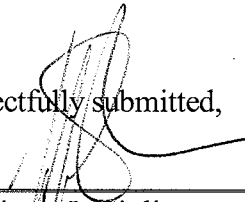
An Advisory Action was subsequently mailed on May 27, 2008, in which the Examiner asserts that the amendments to claims 8 and 24 introduce additional limitations that require further search and consideration. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertion, as such amendments addressed certain informalities in order to clarify the presently claimed invention and distinguish the presently claimed invention over the prior art of record, but did not introduce new claim elements. However, in an effort to promote the continued and expeditious prosecution of the application to allowance, Applicants submit the present response with a Request for Continued Examination.

In light of the present Amendment, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 24 and respectfully submit that independent claim 24 is in a condition for allowance. The dependent claims of the present application contain additional features that further substantially distinguish the invention of the present application over the art of record. Given the Applicants' position regarding the patentability of the independent claim, however, it is not deemed necessary at this point to delineate such distinctions.

For at least all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and objections, and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully solicited. To expedite prosecution of this application to allowance, the examiner is invited to call the Applicants' undersigned representative to discuss any issues relating to this application.

Dated: June 2, 2008

Respectfully submitted,



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